

IN THE CLASSROOM: TELEVISION TO SUPPORT SCHOOL



Television to support school: Parents managing children's viewing

Excerpts from Think TV: A Guide to Managing TV in the Home, produced by the [Nova Scotia Department of Education](#), Halifax, NS. 2000. With permission.

This manual is divided into five training workshops for facilitators who will then train parents and educators in how to develop media literacy in the home and use television critically. The materials have been designed to be easily used by parents at an ABE-level of education. The hand-outs reprinted here are from Workshop 3: Using TV to Support School Success. They are both samples of the many activities that can engage children in critical enjoyable viewing.

HANDOUT 3.7• TV Game: Kid Critics

Kids can design their own ratings system to keep track of different episodes of a favourite series or movies. This will help them make critical decisions about each program. They can compare their ratings with other family members or friends. This is a good way to stimulate discussion about programs.

Since so many programs are repeated, viewers can use their ratings system to help them decide if they want to watch an episode again or not.

Here are sample rating systems:

***** = very good	A = best
*** = OK	B = better
** = so-so	C = good
* = not good	D = no good

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
awful				okay					great

A sample rating sheet:

SERIES TITLE	EPISODE# OR TITLE	DATE SCREENED	RATING & COMMENTS
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HANDOUT 3.10 • TV Game: TV Geography

Keep a globe, a wall map of the world, or an atlas near the TV. When places are shown on television, help children find them on the map, globe, or atlas. Keep track of how often certain places are shown over a period of time. Make lists of important places that you rarely see and try to find programs that show them.

Use this map, globe, or atlas to keep track of children's interests such as natural disasters, wars, dinosaur bone discoveries, etc. Encourage children to look for programs that are set in favourite or unusual places.

Many programs are set in no-name cities or locations. It can be fun to guess the real place they were filmed. Watch the credits at the end of the program for clues about where the programs were filmed.

